29th September 1956]

Dr. K. B. MENON : May I know whether the appointments made under Rule 10 (*a*) (i) in other departments also are numerous and whether the Government are taking any measure to give security to the incumbents under the conditions of change?

The Hon. Sri C. SUBRAMANIAM : In certain cases, the final selection will have to be made by the Public Service Commission. So, unless the Commission makes the selection, we cannot regularize the appointments. Subject to that, active steps are now being taken to regularise as many appointments as possible.

Damage by wild elephants in North Malabar

* 2(PN) Q.—Sri K. P. GOPALAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that since August 1956 wild elephants of Coorg forests are attacking the crops, properties, houses, etc. in Kokkot Pathi Malai in Pulingom in Vayakara amsam in Payyanur Firka and in Pattapara in Thatikatav amsam in Taliparamba Firka in Chirakkal taluk, North Malabar; and

(*b*) if so, what precautionary measures the Government have taken to protect the peasants and inhabitants in the abovementioned places from the attacks of the elephants?

The Hon. Sri M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : The Government have enquired into the allegation that there were attacks of wild elephants of Coorg forests in the Malabar territory in Kokkot Pathi Malai in Pulingom in Vayakara amsam in Payyanur Firka and at Pattapara in Thatikadav amsam in Taliparamba Firka in North Malabar district, since August 1956, resulting in destruction of crops and property. The District Forest Officer, Kozhikode, has reported after enquiry that no such incidents appear to have taken place in these areas. A further report from the District Forest Officer, Kozhikode, after detailed enquiry among the villagers is awaited and suitable action will be taken in the matter.

Sri K. P. GOPALAN : Attacks by wild elephants from the Coorg forests have actually taken place. I visited the area and the victims themselves reported to me about it, and that is why I put the question. In view of the fact that three families have been actually forced to live on trees, so many acres of punam cultivation has been destroyed and some houses have been destroyed, will the Government be pleased to make an immediate enquiry into the matter and see that the peasants are protected?

The Hon. Sri M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : I accept whatever the hon. Member says as firsthand information and I may assure him that the Government are taking necessary steps in the matter.

SRI T. C. NARAYANAN NAMBIAR: Eruvasi in Irikkoor Firka, Naduvil in Taliparamba Firka and Eramam in Payyanur Firka and suburbs are contiguous to and near a reserve forest in Coorg. Very often wild animals from the forest come to these places and devastate the crops and other properties of agriculturists. Some peasants are carrying on fugitive cultivation there. Before 1949, they were given licences to possess fire-arms but in 1949 the licences were withdrawn. Now some of them have applied for licence. Without fire-arms they are not in a position to carry on fugitive cultivation in the forests. Will the Government be kind enough to enquire and see that licences are given immediately in deserving cases?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM: If the hon. Member will give me a short note about this, I shall take necessary action.

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS.

Travelling allowances to the Tamil Police Constables

18 *Q.*—SRI M. KATTIMUTHU: Will the Hon. the Minister for Finance be pleased to state the reasons for not giving the Tamil Police Constables, etc., who are doing duties 100 miles away from their native places travelling allowances, when Malayalee Police Constables who are doing duties 100 miles away from their native places are being given travelling allowances as per Police Standing Orders, Volume I, page 139, Order 310, clause 5?

A.—Constables and Head Constables who are natives of Malabar district are granted railway fares or warrants for journeys to and from their native place once in three years mainly for the reason that at the time the concession was sanctioned a large number of men belonging to Malabar were specially enlisted and employed in the Armed Reserves of the Southern districts and in the Madras City Police and as they were asked to serve for years together away from their families. The question of granting this concession to Tamil Police Constables was not considered then. The Government have since examined the question of the continuance or otherwise of the concession and have decided to review the question early in January 1957.

Midday meals to the Harijan students

19 *Q.*—SRI M. KATTIMUTHU: Will the Hon. the Minister for Religious Endowments and Transport be pleased to state whether there is any proposal with the Government for providing midday meals to the Harijan students in the schools run by the District Board of South Arcot?

A.—No, Sir.